

I claim:

1. A vehicular lighting system comprising:

an elongated mounting base having a body, said body having a central portion with a central bearing surface for contacting a mounting surface, said body including a pair of flanges having upwardly depending portions extending from said central portion and

5 downwardly depending portions extending from said central portion, said downwardly depending portions forming bearing surfaces spaced from said central bearing surface for contacting the mounting surface, and said central portion having an elongated groove opposed from said central bearing surface, said elongated groove extending along said base, said elongated groove and inner surfaces of said flanges defining an elongated receptacle; and

10 a flexible light strip positioned and retained in said receptacle by said flanges, said light strip being substantially contained within said receptacle, and said light strip comprising a substantially transparent polymeric body and a plurality of light sources encapsulated in said polymeric body, and said light strip having contacts for electrically coupling said light sources to a power supply.

2. The lighting system according to Claim 1, wherein said light sources comprise light emitting diodes.

3. The lighting system according to Claim 1, wherein said polymeric body comprises a polyvinyl chloride body.

4. The lighting system according to Claim 1, wherein said lower portions of said flanges and said central portion form therebetween recesses.

5. The lighting system according to Claim 4, wherein said recesses between said lower portions of said flanges and said central portion comprise mounting openings, said mounting openings for receiving couplers.

6. The lighting system according to Claim 5, said base comprising a first base, further comprising a second base, said second base being coupled to said first base by

couplers, said couplers extending into said mounting openings of said respective bases to thereby couple said bases together, wherein said light strip comprises a light strip extending through both of said receptacles of said respective bases to form a longer lighting system.

5 7. The lighting system according to Claim 6, wherein said couplers comprise pins.

8. The lighting system according to Claim 7, wherein said pins comprises coiled spring pins.

9. The lighting system according to Claim 1, further comprising terminal end members, said terminal end members coupling to opposed ends of said base and for securing at least end portions of said base to the vehicle.

10. The lighting system according to Claim 9, wherein said terminal end members comprise elongate end caps, each of said end caps having a mounting flange on one distal end and a shoulder on an opposed distal end thereof, and said shoulders abutting said ends of said base.

11. The lighting system according to Claim 10, wherein said shoulders include axially extending projections extending therefrom, said projections coupling to said ends of said base.

12. The lighting system according to Claim 11, wherein said lower portions of said flanges and said central body form therebetween recesses, said projections extending into said recesses for coupling said end caps to said base.

13. The lighting system according to Claim 12, wherein said recesses comprise rounded recesses, one of said projections and said rounded recesses adapted to generate frictional engagement between said projections and said base.

14. The lighting system according to Claim 13, wherein said projections comprise pins.

15. The lighting system according to Claim 13, wherein said rounded recesses are adapted to generate said frictional engagement between said projections and said base.

16. The lighting system according to Claim 15, wherein said lower portions of said flanges deflect when said projections are inserted into said rounded recesses to thereby generate frictional engagement between said projections and said base.

17. The lighting system according to Claim 15, wherein said projections are compressible.

18. The lighting system according to Claim 1, wherein said elongated groove has an upper portion and a lower portion, said upper portion and said inner surfaces of said flanges defining said elongated receptacle.

19. The lighting system according to Claim 1, wherein said elongated receptacle comprises a round elongated receptacle.

20. The lighting system according to Claim 1, further comprising a light assembly, said light assembly mounted over said light strip and said base.

21. The lighting system according to Claim 20, wherein said light assembly comprises a housing and at least one light source in said housing, said light source of said light assembly being adapted for coupling to a power supply.

22. The lighting system according to Claim 21, wherein said housing comprises a housing base, said housing base having a transverse passage therethrough for receiving said light strip and said mounting base wherein said light assembly provides a supplemental illumination source to said light strip.

23. The lighting system according to Claim 22, wherein said light assembly is mounted to an end portion of said mounting base to thereby form a terminal member for said mounting base.

24. The light assembly according to Claim 22, wherein said light source of said light assembly and said light sources of said light strip are electrically coupled to the same power supply.

25. A vehicular lighting system comprising:

a base having an elongated body, said body having an elongated groove and opposed distal ends, each of said opposed distal ends having a pair of mounting recesses extending axially into said distal ends and extending generally parallel with said elongated

5 groove;

a flexible light strip positioned and retained in said elongated groove by said body, said light strip being substantially contained within said elongated groove; and

at least one end cap coupling to a distal end of said base, said end cap having a shoulder on a distal end thereof, said shoulder abutting said distal end of said base and
10 including axially extending projections extending therefrom, said projections extending into said mounting recesses for coupling to said distal end of said base.

26. The lighting system according to Claim 25, wherein said elongated groove comprises an upper portion and a lower portion, said light strip retained in said upper portion.

27. The lighting system according to Claim 25, wherein said elongated body has a central portion, said central portion including a bearing surface for contacting a mounting surface on a vehicle.

28. The lighting system according to Claim 27, wherein said body includes a pair of flanges having upwardly depending portions and downwardly depending portions, said downwardly depending portions forming bearing surfaces spaced from central portion, and space between inner surfaces of said upwardly depending portions defining a portion of said
5 elongated groove.

29. The lighting system according to Claim 28, wherein said downwardly depending portions of said flanges and said central portion form therebetween said mounting openings.

30. The lighting system according to Claim 25, wherein said polymeric body comprises a polyvinyl chloride body.

31. The lighting system according to Claim 25, said base comprising a first base, further comprising a second base, said second base being coupled to first base by couplers, said couplers extending into said mounting openings of said respective bases to thereby couple said bases together, wherein said light strip comprises a light strip extending through both of said elongated grooves of said respective bases to form a longer lighting system.

32. The lighting system according to Claim 31, wherein said couplers comprise pins.

33. The lighting system according to Claim 32, wherein said pins comprises coiled spring pins.

34. The lighting system according to Claim 1, further comprising terminal end members, said terminal end members coupling to opposed ends of said base and for securing at least end portions of said base to the vehicle.

35. A vehicular lighting system comprising:
a light assembly, said light assembly having a housing and at least one light source positioned in said housing, said light assembly having electrical leads for coupling said light source to a power supply of the vehicle, and said housing being adapted to mount to a mounting surface of a vehicle;
an elongate member having an elongate groove;
a light strip positioned in said elongate groove, said light strip having a plurality of light sources extending along said light strip, said light strip having electrical

contacts for coupling said light sources of said light strip to the power supply in said vehicle;
10 and

said elongate member being adapted to mount to the mounting surface, said light strip and said elongate member extending from said housing of said light assembly to thereby form a substantially continuous line of light that extends from said light assembly for illuminating a portion of the vehicle.

36. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 35, further comprising at least two of said light assembly, said elongate member and said light strip extending at least between said light assemblies to form a substantially continuous line of light that extends between said light assemblies for illuminating a portion of the vehicle.

37. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 35, wherein said elongate member comprises a first elongate member, said vehicular lighting system further comprising a second elongate member having a groove, said second elongate member aligned with said first elongate member wherein said grooves of said second elongate member and said first 5 elongate member are aligned to form continuous groove, said light strip extending along said continuous groove.

38. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 37, wherein said first elongate member and said second elongate member are coupled.

39. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 38, wherein said first elongate member and said second elongate member are coupled by pins extending into respective recesses formed in said elongate members.

40. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 39, wherein said recesses extend into ends of said first elongate member and said second elongate member wherein said pins are generally not viewable when said elongate members are coupled.

41. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 35, wherein said groove of said elongate member includes a recess for forming a raceway for conduiting electrical leads along said elongate member.

42. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 37, wherein said first elongate member extends from one side of said light assembly, and said second elongate member extends from another side of said light assembly.

43. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 37, further comprising at least two of said light assembly, at least one of said first elongate member and said second elongate member extending between said light assemblies to form a line of light that extends between said light assemblies for illuminating a portion of the vehicle.

44. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 43, further comprising at least three of said light assembly, one of said light assemblies comprising an intermediate light assembly, a first of said light assemblies comprising a first light assembly, a third of said light assemblies comprising a third light assembly, said first elongate member extending between a first light assembly and said intermediate light assembly, and said second elongate member extending between said intermediate light assembly and said third light assembly for generating a line of light between said first and third light assemblies to illuminate a portion of the vehicle.

5 45. A vehicular lighting system comprising:
first and second light assemblies, each light assembly having a housing, at least one light source positioned in said housing, and electrical leads for coupling their respective light sources to a power supply of the vehicle, and each of said housings being adapted to mount to a mounting surface of a vehicle and over an opening in the mounting surface of the vehicle;

an elongate member having an elongate groove and being adapted to mount to the mounting surface;

a light strip positioned in said elongate groove, said light strip having a plurality of light sources extending along said light strip, said light strip having electrical

contacts for coupling to the power supply through one of the openings in the mounting surface of the said vehicle; and

said elongate member extending between said light assemblies to thereby form a substantially continuous line of light that extends between said light assemblies for illuminating a portion of the vehicle.

15 46. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 45, further comprising an intermediate light assembly between said first and second light assemblies.

47. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 45, wherein said elongate member comprises a first elongate member, said vehicular lighting system further comprising a second elongate member and a second light strip, said second elongate member having a second groove, said second light strip positioned in said second groove, and said second 5 elongate member extending from one of said light assemblies.

48. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 47, wherein said first elongate member and said second elongate member are coupled.

49. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 47, wherein said first elongate member and said second elongate member are coupled by pins extending into respective recesses formed in said elongate members.

50. The vehicular lighting system according to Claim 45, wherein said elongate member includes a plurality of mounting openings in said groove, said mounting openings being located behind said light strip when said light strip is mounted in said groove.